A Farewell from Executive Director Peggy Brown

I have had the honor and privilege of serving at the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (ANDVSA) for nearly 20 years. It has truly been a rewarding experience that seemed to go by so fast. I extend my appreciation to the current and past Boards of Directors with whom I have had the pleasure of working. Each board member was an outstanding professional who was committed to coalition building and ending domestic and sexual violence in Alaska.

My work with ANDVSA began as a financial person for an agency that had a staff of 3, including myself. We only had phones and splurged on the latest, greatest fax machine. We learned to use the “internet” and spent hours on the phone for tech support. Now we are a staff of 15 with offices in Juneau, Anchorage and Sitka. ANDVSA is served by a highly motivated professional staff that does an outstanding job of providing service to and advocating for our member programs and affiliates as well as federal, state, tribal and local partners. Across the board, they have a collective attitude of doing whatever it takes to get the job done. ANDVSA continues to attract new staff with experience and a commitment to victims of domestic and sexual violence and to communities who want to build resiliency.
I am proud to point to these major ANDVSA milestones that have occurred over the last 20 years:

- Passage of Alaska’s Domestic Violence Protection Act in 1996;
- A training curricula called Real Tools that became a national resource addressing the co-occurrence of substance abuse and domestic violence;
- Our first 30 hour online training course with the University of Alaska to help providers and the general public receive basic training;
- A nationally recognized legal services and pro bono program that, last year, served over 280 victims and survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault and brought in over $1.2M of pro bono attorney time;
- A housing program that was recognized by Vice President Biden as an innovative program addressing housing needs of victims of domestic and sexual violence;
- Healthcare screening for victims in emergency rooms;
- Formation of Sexual Assault Response Teams;
- A prevention program that created tools, training, and resources for men and engaged men in preventing violence; that supports, connects, and inspires youth to prevent violence.
- Prevention programming that compiled data and developed an Alaska evidence-base for domestic, teen dating, and sexual violence prevention.
- The passage of numerous laws and legislation that benefitted victims or helped deter harming victims;
- Laws, regulations, curricula, policies and protocols that help victims and provide tools for teens, parents, teachers, and many more Alaskans.
- Utilizing emerging technological platforms such as on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter to improve communications and outreach.

I am also pleased to say I leave a strong, healthy organization, ready to continue to grow and introduce new training, resources and community participation that will ensure ANDVSA remains a vital resource for those who want to end domestic and sexual violence in this state.

We lived through the greatest economic turmoil since the time of our grandparents and great-grandparents. We have seen technology change at a pace faster than probably at any time in history. We’ve seen domestic violence no longer be so overwhelmingly “a private family matter”. We’ve seen rape, sexual abuse and rape culture be an actual topic of discussion in public forums. These changes have altered the way we do business and communicate our message.

ANDVSA and its partners are stronger together than ever. We are more efficient and effective in executing our core goals and strategies. I believe we have made a difference. Every day when faced with a decision, I asked myself, “how does this
improve the lives of victims and our membership”. Furtherance of that goal is why we exist as an organization. I have worked to do all I could to make sure our members have what they need to provide services and leadership in their communities.

I have tried my best to advance all of those goals. I have relied on a phenomenal staff, stewards and other membership leaders to guide me, and without them I could not have lasted 20 years.

I thank you all for your trust in the time I have been here. It has truly been my honor to work for each of you. The work continues...

Peggy Brown

Lead On! Applications are Available!

Lead On! is an annual youth leadership mini-summit for Alaskan teens. At Lead On!, national and local speakers engage youth from all regions of the state through presentations on various topics, including healthy relationships, non-violence, leadership, positive choices and community involvement. Youth plan and lead much of the conference and work together to plan projects with their peers from each community.

The 2015 Lead On! Applications are here! Do you know any Alaskan teens between the ages of 13-18 who might be interested in applying? The main Lead On! conference will be November 13-15, 2015 in

Women’s Legal Rights Handbook

The ANDVSA Legal Program is thrilled to present the 2015 edition of the Women’s Legal Rights Handbook. The newly revised and updated handbook provides a comprehensive overview of legal issues relevant to women of all ages and backgrounds in Alaska. It has chapters written by attorneys and assembled by ANDVSA covering a wide range of topics including child custody, spousal support,
Anchorage, Alaska. Scholarships are available.

For the first time this year, there will be a Lead On! Pre-Summit on Sexual Health and Healthy Relationships. The Pre-Summit will be on November 12-13, 2015 in Anchorage, Alaska.

The first deadline for Lead On! applications is August 15, 2015 and the next deadline is September 10, 2015. Please note, the planning committee will award spots on a first-come-first-serve basis so it is best to submit applications and letters of support early.

Applications for both students and chaperones can be found here.

Executive Director Recruitment
Peggy's last day will be September 1, 2015. The ANDVSA Board has appointed an Executive Director Search Committee, chaired by ANDVSA Chair, Suzi Pearson, who is working with an executive search firm to find a replacement. Peggy will continue to serve as a resource while the search process continues.

The Legal Information and Referral Hotline
is available on the following Tuesdays by calling toll-free to:
1-888-988-3725
August 11, 12-2pm
August 25, 12-2pm
Sept. 8, 12-2pm
Sept. 22, 12-2pm

Who Should I Call?
Victims of domestic violence and sexual assault who want basic information about their legal rights and options and referral information from an attorney.

What Types of Questions can the Hotline

housing rights and tribal law and courts. Be aware, however, that the law can change and is sometimes difficult to interpret. If you have a specific legal questions, you should consult an attorney or government agency.

Copies of the print edition of the manual were distributed to member programs following its publication in 2015. The handbook is available online at www.andvsa.org/wlrh.
Should you have any questions regarding the upcoming leadership transition and associated planning process, you may contact Suzi Pearson, Board Chair, at suzi_p@awaic.org.

To see a job description for ANDVSA’s Execuvite Director position, please click here. Please direct any questions about the position to Ron Distransky at ron@nejobs.net.

Welcome Judy Gette, Training Project Coordinator in Anchorage, Alaska
From Judy: I have experience working with diverse populations: prisoners, crime victims, students, foster children, and adoptive families. I retired after 20 years of working as a probation officer and went on to teach at Mat Su College in the Psychology and Human Services Departments. I have traveled all over the State working with families who are adopting children. I have extensive experience working with the offending population in prisons and in the community. I have trained in using risk assessments to help courts and protective services make decisions about risk of violence within families. Experience at a

Attorney Answer?
General questions about many areas of the law, including family and criminal law.

Who Will I Speak With?
You will speak with one of ANDVSA’s pro bono program’s volunteer attorneys.

Pick.Click.Give
There’s still time to add a Pick Click Give donation to the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. Help us end domestic violence and sexual assault in Alaska. Just visit pfd.alaska.gov and look for the green button to edit your PFD application to include a donation by August 31.

Quotes from Member Program Directors on Peggy’s Departure
"Thank you Peggy for welcoming me to a strong united sisterhood that has accomplished many goals, some at times unimaginable, and continues to work to ensure that all Alaskan’s have the opportunity to live fear free lives. I want to thank you and commend you for the many years of service that you have committed to the people of Alaska. Your involvement was vital in many cultural, social and policy changes. I know we will all miss you dearly and wish you only the best in your future endeavors." - Ashley R. Stickman, Maniilaq Family Crisis Center Manager, Kotzebue
domestic violence and sexual assault program involved oversight of a shelter, a batterers' program, and community outreach and prevention. I have four daughters and three grandsons and one husband. I belong to three book clubs and do one on air radio book club show a month for KVRF 89.5. I like biking and hiking and should make time to do both more often. I enjoy traveling and will be going on a river cruise in Europe next year! I look forward to meeting all the ANDVSA staff and learning more about how I can contribute to the overall goals.

"I first got to know Peggy when I went to Juneau with Ashley Stickman for an orientation. Peggy immediately struck me as honest, strong, and bold. Underneath all that, she is more caring than most people about others. She can be a tiger and she can be the most safe person to be with."
- Barb Amarok, Bering Sea Women's Group, Nome

"I first met Peggy in Seward, AK at a ANDVSA meeting shortly after I was hired for SAFE. Peggy would call and make sure that I was okay, and I really appreciated that. I quickly learned that Peggy was hard working, dedicated to domestic violence and sexual assault issues, witty, and very serious when she needs to be. Going to miss Peggy."
- Marilyn Casteel, Safe and Fear Free Environment, Dillingham

A Farewell from the Board of Directors
Letter from ANDVSA Governance Board Chair, Suzi Pearson

I have personally known Peggy Brown for over seven years, but I knew of her reputation in this work for over twenty. I first had the chance to get to know Peggy during my first trip to Juneau to educate legislators on priority issues during a Network Meeting. She made sure I had the support and training I needed to feel confident. Peggy has been a rock for so many Executive Directors across the state. She is an amazing listener and runs the executive director crisis line.

Although many know that Peggy has been with the agency for 20 years, they may not know all she accomplished professionally and done for the women's movement. Within Alaska, she has served on the Division of Juvenile Justice Advisory Council, various administration's transition teams, legislative task forces, state and tribal workgroups and has been an effective lobbyist on behalf of ANDVSA. She became the Executive Director in 2004 and has led the agency through challenging times in the state.

Nationally, she helped draft the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act and successfully lobbied for its passage; helped create new federal funding streams for prevention; and secured federal grants. She has served on various committees and boards within the National Network to End Domestic Violence; the Rape, Abuse & Incest National
Network and the National Sexual Violence Resource Center and worked on issues including healthcare, welfare reform, housing, prevention, and economic justice.

Peggy's achievements are impressive, but it is the lasting friendships and personal connections that matter the most to those of us who call her a mentor and friend. She has left such a lasting impression on all those she knows in the movement to end violence against women. Her powerful voice will echo throughout the movement for years to come.